

Urban Sanitary District of Royton.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1894.

PRESENTED to the Sanitary and Surveyor's Committee of the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYTON, on Monday,
January 28th, 1895, and published by order of the said
Committee.

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.

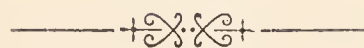
	Area in Acres.	Population 1891 Census.
Township of Royton	1,372	12,568
Township of Thornham (part of)	740	827
TOTALS	2,112	13,395

THOMAS BLEASDALE,

CLERK, ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Clerk's Office,
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*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and
Surveyor's Committee of the Urban District
Council of Royton :*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my report for the year 1894.

The Smallpox epidemic which began in the year 1892 continued in 1894 up to the month of April. Sixteen cases of the disease were reported at the Office, but one was discovered to be a severe case of Chickenpox, and not Smallpox. The cases were all removed to the Hospital, where two died.

In the beginning of January the Chadderton Local Board opened a Hospital for cases of Smallpox at Cinder Hill, and the Corporation of Oldham one at Moscow. The acute cases of the disease were sent to these two Hospitals, and the benefit was not long in being felt. The epidemic speedily declined, and by the month of May was practically over in Oldham and the surrounding district, so that the Cinder Hill Hospital was closed on the first of June. No cases of the disease have occurred in Royton since April, and none in Chadderton since May 16th. The thanks of the whole community of Oldham and the townships of Chadderton, Royton, and Crompton are due to the late Dr. Patterson, for his energetic action in inducing the Chadderton Local Board to build the Hospital at Cinder Hill, and, in an indirect way, compelling the Corporation of Oldham, for very shame, to provide some accommodation other than Westhulme.

Formation
of joint
Hospital
Board

A Joint Hospital Board for Chadderton, Crompton, and Royton, came into existence on September 29th. So far, beyond appointing officials, the Board has done nothing, but now that the District Council Elections are over, I hope the members will get to work and provide us with further Hospital accommodation, or at least make some definite arrangement for the treatment of infectious diseases. There seems to be some inclination to approach Oldham, and make terms with its Corporation for the treatment of infectious diseases other than Smallpox, and so obviate the necessity of further building by the Joint Hospital Board. Whether the out-townships should treat their own cases or send them to Oldham will depend on how many they intend sending to Hospital. If the intention is to send practically all cases to Hospital, then the cheaper way would be to build an Hospital, and treat them themselves. If only occasional cases are to be sent, then the cheaper way would be to get them treated by Oldham. One thing we definitely require is a Reception House in which to keep families while their dwellings are being fumigated. During the disinfection of houses we have sometimes to contend with a difficulty arising from the fact that the inmates have no proper shelter, and under the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, we can be compelled to provide proper accommodation. Is this a question for the Joint Hospital Board, or should each District Council provide its own Reception House?

On February 12th, a case of Smallpox occurred at 2, Moss View, Heyside, and a few days later I found there was Smallpox next door. I need not enter into all the details of this case, but as I happened to have warned the occupier's wife sometime previously that her family might have been infected at a relative's house at which she had visited, and that she must inform me if anyone turned ill in her house, and as she failed to do so, we could only look on her action as a deliberate attempt to conceal the disease. The occupier was summoned to appear before the Magistrates, who, after hearing the evidence, took the same view, and would have inflicted a

heavy penalty if it had not been represented to them that the family was very poor, and that the Local Board only asked for a nominal fine, the intention being to use the case as a warning. It was intimated that the full penalty would be asked for against any further delinquents.

We continue to have Scarlet Fever in an endemic form. The type of disease is mild at present, as we have had forty-five cases reported without any deaths.

Table of Cases of Scarlet Fever during the last Eight Years.

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
No. of Cases ...	84	63	95	44	19	37	30	45
No. of Deaths..	15	5	8	5	1	1	3	..

On the other hand, we have had an increase in the number of cases of and deaths from Croup and Diphtheria. These two diseases are spoken of as different, but I believe they are the same, only attacking different parts of the throat. Five cases of Croup and fifteen of Diphtheria were reported. There was no sudden outbreak of these diseases, but cases appear here and there at different times. The houses were all inspected and the drainage inquired into, but no constant defect was found, in some cases no defect whatever. This disease used to be looked on as specially dependent on bad drainage, but I have grave doubts about it. Direct infection has much to do with it, and the time is coming when the regular inspection of scholars at the day schools will be an important part of a sanitary authority's duties. To do so requires time, as I found when I did it, and at present no recompense is made for that time utilised in the public service.

Table of Cases of Diphtheria and Croup during the last Eight Years.

	1887	1888	1889	1890*	1891	1892	1893	1894
No. of Cases ...	...	2	1	1	4	5	8	20
No. of Deaths..	2	3	11	2	1	...	5	12

* The Infectious Disease Notification Act came into operation on the
1st February, 1890.

Measles There have been few cases of Measles, and only one death.

Enteric
Fever Enteric Fever has given us no trouble, as we have only had two cases of the disease, and no mortality therefrom.

Erysipelas We had sixteen cases of Erysipelas, and two deaths.

Altogether 101 cases of disease have been reported to the Sanitary Department, and seventeen of these have died.

Tables of the number of cases reported, and deaths from Infectious Diseases are here added.

Number of Cases Reported.

AGE.	Small-pox.	Chick'n pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Croup	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.	Puer- peral Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Total.
Under Five	...	...	18	4	9	...	...	1	32
Over Five..	15	1	27	1	6	2	2	15	69
TOTALS...	15	1	45	5	15	2	2	16	101

Number of Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

AGE.	Croup.	Diph- theria.	Puer- peral Fever.	Measles.	Whoop- ing Cough.	Ery- sipelas.	Total.
Under Five 	7	2	...	1	1	...	11
Over Five ... ...	...	3	1	...	...	2	6

Table of New Cases of Sickness

coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health
during the years 1887 to 1894.

DISEASE.	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Smallpox	9	...	...	...	3	46	15
Measles	109	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever... ..	84	63	95	44	19	37	30	45
Diphtheria	1	1	...	2	2	6	15
Membranous Croup.	...	1	...	1	2	3	2	5
Enteric Fever... ..	1	4	8	9	10	5	6	2
Continued Fever	1	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	2	...	2
Erysipelas	2	8	10	12	16
Typho-pneumonia	2	2	1	1	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	1

Table of Deaths from Infectious Diseases

during the years 1887 to 1894.

DISEASE.	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	4*	2†
Measles	3	13	3	7	15	11	9	1
Scarlet Fever... ..	15	5	8	5	1	1	3	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	5
Membranous Croup.	1	3	10	2	1	...	2	7
Enteric Fever... ..	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	2	...	...	3	2	...	1
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	1	...	..	...	..	2
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	6	2	6	20	1	1
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	9	3	1	...

* Died in Westhulme Hospital.

† Died in Cinder Hill Hospital.

Death Rate
from
Infectious
Diseases

This Table shows seventeen registered deaths from Infectious Diseases, and also two deaths which occurred at Cinder Hill Hospital amongst patients sent from Royton. The death rate from this class of disease was 1·3 per 1,000. In 1893 the corresponding death rate was 1·7 per 1,000, the number of deaths being nineteen; and in 1892 the number was thirty-seven.

Deaths from other Diseases during the Year 1894.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery	...	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21
Phthisis...	...	...	...	18
Bronchitis	...	...	...	27
Heart Disease	...	...	...	18
Injuries	...	...	...	5
Cancer	...	...	...	6
Diseases of Nervous System	...	...	...	29
Convulsions	...	...	...	8
Diseases of Digestive Organs	...	...	...	11
Diseases of Urinary Organs...	...	...	...	4
Child Birth	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	4
Old Age	...	...	...	4
All other Diseases	...	...	...	27
Deaths of People in the Workhouse belonging to Royton	...	...	...	17

206

In the Report for the year 1893, Dr. Sergeant, the Medical Officer of Health for the County, says that there is an increasing tendency to modify the vital statistics of districts by the undue exclusion of deaths, and that deaths in Workhouses, &c., are not included in the statistics of the districts to which they belong. I have tried as far as possible to get the deaths of all persons belonging to Royton included in the Tables, and for

that purpose wrote to J. W. Mellor, Esq., Clerk to the Guardians, to send me a list of the deaths of persons in the Workhouse belonging to Royton, and to Dr. Hodgins, House Surgeon of the Oldham Infirmary, for deaths in that Institution. I received a list of seventeen deaths in the Workhouse, but at the time of writing this Report had received no reply from the Infirmary. I also included two deaths from Smallpox at Cinder Hill Hospital. The total deaths are :—

Registered in the Township ...	...	...	206
Died in the Workhouse ...	...	...	17
Died in Cinder Hill Hospital ...	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			225

Calculating the population at 13,800, 225 deaths give a mortality of 16·3 per 1,000. In 1893 the rate was 20·1 per 1,000, and in 1892 19·6 per 1,000.

Table of Mortality from all Causes at the subjoined Ages.

	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	In Public Institu- tions.	TOTAL
Males	22	18	11	6	35	19	13	124
Females	28	13	4	7	22	21	6	101
	50	31	15	13	57	40	19	225

The births of 193 males and 188 females were registered during 1894, a total of 381. The birth rate is accordingly 27·6 per 1,000. The rate of infant deaths under one year to 1,000 births is 134. In 1893 it was 174, a very decided improvement, which it is hoped will be maintained.

Of the 206 deaths registered 81 were in children under 5 years of age, that is 39 per cent, and 50 were under one year of age, that is 24 per cent. These figures are better than those of 1893.

Table of Number of Births, Deaths, and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, with the Rate per 1,000, for the the years 1891 to 1894 inclusive.

	NUMBERS.				RATE PER 1,000.			
	1891	1892	1893	1894	1891	1892	1893	1894
Births	415	417	429	381	30·8	31·0	31·7	27·6
Deaths	282	283	268	225	21·0	19·6	20·1	16·3
Deaths from Infectious Diseases	25	37	23	17	1·8	2·7	1·7	1·3

The most noticeable feature in the Statistics is the diminishing mortality in infants and children under 5 years of age as shown in the following table.

Deaths of Infants and children under 5 years of age, from 1888 to 1894.

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Under 1 Year.....	43	63	66	66	62	75	50
1 Year and Under 5...	47	43	42	47	42	43	31

The Sanitary Inspector's work has been carried on as efficiently as possible, and a large number of visits have been made to dirty houses, defective ashpits, closets, cesspools, blocked drains, &c. Two hundred and twenty-four of these nuisances were dealt with, and the majority were visited two, three, or four times as occasion required.

There were also 36 houses fumigated.

The slaughterhouses, eleven in number, have been inspected by myself at the end of the year, and have been inspected at various intervals by Mr. Hall, the Veterinary Surgeon and Inspector of Meat, and by the Sanitary Inspector.

Five of them are satisfactory, five require the joints in the floors to be cemented, and one is unsatisfactory; this however has been remedied since the end of 1894.

The tripe boiling places are fairly satisfactory.

There are eighteen bakehouses in the district. These have been visited at various intervals, and 16 found to be always in a very clean condition.

The Cotton Mills, Cutting Shops, and Bleach Works, have been inspected thoroughly on at least three different occasions during the year.

Tabulated Statistics of Cotton Mills, Etc.

DESCRIPTION.	No. of Employés.		No. of Closets.		Cess-pools.	Sanitary Pans.	Average per Closet.		Total.
	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.			Males.	Fem.	
Cotton Mills, &c. ...	2605	1715	110	104	22	190	24	17	22
Cutting Shops and Other Workshops.	200	102	29	13	11	31	7	8	25

At the 22 Mills referred to in above statistics, the sanitary arrangements at 4 may be classed as good, 10 satisfactory, 6 passable, and 2 unclean. The attention of the proper authorities has been called to defects, and efforts made to remedy them. In some places the sanitary pans have to be emptied twice a week on account of the number of people using them, in one place the average number using the closet being 48. In two places I spoke to the officials of the necessity of getting a further supply of sanitary pans, in order to obviate the necessity of the Council's workmen visiting the premises more than once a week. There are eight places in which the average is over 30 per can. Your attention will be drawn, in Committee, to one Cutting Shop, at which the accommodation is very defective, and in which decided action requires to be taken.

On June 25th, you appointed William Hall, Esq., M.R.C.V.S., F.E.V.M.S., as Inspector of Meat, an appointment which will give great satisfaction and prove of benefit. As soon as regulations are made for the Cowsheds and Dairies, I would recommend his appointment as Inspector of them also.

The Nightsoil is still removed at night by the Council's own workmen, and the district gone over every week. The work as far as I can make out is done satisfactorily.

The Refuse Destructor is now in full working order. So far I have heard no complaints of any smell arising either from it or from the Sewage Purification Works. Everything seems to work satisfactorily, and the effluent discharged from the Works is bright and pure. Samples of the effluent are taken and kept in the office for weeks at a time without any signs of secondary decomposition.

The work of Sewering the District is still proceeding.

We still continue to get our supply of Water for domestic purposes from the Oldham Corporation.

APPENDIX,

—:0:—

The house-to-house visitation has consisted in a revisitation of districts gone over in former years, to endeavour to keep up the improvement reported before. No record of the number of visits made has been kept.

Number of Nuisances dealt with.

Defective Ashpits	16
„ Cesspools... ..	17
„ Sanitary Pans... ..	51
„ Grids	21
Blocked Drains	86
Defective Spouting in Damp Houses	6
Various	13
Dirty Houses	14
Houses Fumigated... ..	36
	260

Workshops, &c., Inspected.

Slaughter Houses	11
Tripe Boiling Places	5
Bakehouses	18
Cotton Mills	22
Cutting Shops, &c. ..	25
	81

The Slaughter Houses, &c., have been gone through systematically three times during the year.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1894.

Population at Census (1891)...	...	...	...	...	...	13,395
Present Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	13,800
Births Registered	...	...	...	...	Males	193
„	...	...	...	...	Females	188
					—	381
Deaths Registered	...	...	...	...	Males	111
„	...	...	...	...	Females	95
Deaths from Smallpox in Cinder Hill Hospital	...					2
Deaths in Oldham Workhouse of people belonging to Royton	...	...	...	...	...	17
					—	225
Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases	...					19
Annual Rate of Mortality per 1,000 living population.						16.3
Annual Rate of Mortality per 1,000 living population from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1.3
Deaths under one year to 1,000 births...	...	...	...	...		134.0
Annual Rate of Births per 1,000 living population	...					27.6
Deaths of Children under five years of age...	81					= 39% of total.
Deaths of Children under one year of age...	50					= 24% of total.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES GARDNER, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Royton, January 28th, 1895.

